

WOULD NOT BE CRUEL

THE RAILROAD COMPANIES NOT
DISPOSED TO HURT PEOPLE.

DEAD AND WOUNDED COST MUCH.

This Fact, Aside from Human Con-
sideration, Makes the Management
of Transportation Lines Exceed-
ingly Cautious.

When a man would build a house, he sits down and calculates how much it will cost to do so, and then he pours all his money out of the shot-bag and counts that up. If the cost and the contents of the bag are about the same in amount, he goes ahead with the housebuilding. If a king would go out to war, he first has a grand count of his soldiers—whether with 10,000 men can meet his adversary with 20,000. So, too, the man or corporation which builds a railroad or a streetcar line first sits down and counts the cost.

The sources of revenue are the passengers (high officials of other roads and newspaper-men excepted) who will travel over the route, the local and the through freight. Over against these figures of credit are the rows and columns of debts, Expenses!!

But a railroad financier would be but short-sighted unless he saw the fitness of putting aside a small contingent to pay the costs of the eyes, arms, legs, and lives of the people whom his road will grind up.

THE LAW AS LAID DOWN.

The law upon the subject of damage is curious in appearance at first glance. It says that if a railroad cuts off a man's little finger at the third joint, it can be sued for \$10,000, \$15,000, \$20,000, or \$50,000. If a man's light, however, is puffed out at the nostrils of the iron steed, his heirs can sue only for \$10,000, with the very slight chance of getting that amount. An illustration of this occurred in a Richmond court only a few months ago, when a lady was awarded by the court more for the loss of a single limb than her people could even have asked for had she been killed outright. So this item, or the idea and consequences of the liability of a railroad, is by no means insignificant. And this fact has made the corporations which, the saying has it, have no hearts, but pockets, over which they keep fierce watch-dogs, take greatest caution to reduce their death and burial account to the lowest figures.

It may possibly be true that there is an increase of railroad casualties and fatalities upon those of the past ten years; but this is not at all attributable to the lack of increase of caution on the part of the railroad officials to prevent them. It is rather because there are more persons, especially the dependents of persons, or their friends, who are willing to go into litigation over severed limbs and heads than formerly, and more legal lights that have leisure upon their hands to shine in this direction. Of course, there are many more suits entered against the railroads than are ever productive of a cent to the defendants for all their trouble and the lawyers for all their talk. And so, when the matter of cases is left out, and only those instances considered where the defendant is given judgment, the care and caution of the corporations put them on a true line of retrenchment.

TAKE CARE OF THEIR VICTIMS.

The railroad officials are most humanely kind to their injured and dead dependents on their roads, and aside from any human feeling for their victims, it pays, because it helps to stave off damage suits; and if not succeeding in this, it makes a right good record before a jury to tell of the skillful medical attention the injured persons received along with the injuries—free of charge. The officials of the railroads which enter Richmond have always been especially active in doing as little damage to life and limb—and have in good measure succeeded—as compared with other roads. It is true that the Richmond government requires gates put at each street railroad-crossing, and popular welfare, but it is doubtful if the railroads would do so anyway to protect themselves. They are also required not to exceed a certain rate of speed in running through the city limits, and to ring the bell—driving the ill people for squares around in spasms. But it also serves the very valuable end of letting people know what is going on, and where, so as not to unintentionally walk over it.

DOES IT, BUT NOT ON PURPOSE.

A great many persons have noticed that a shifting-engine runs across the Atlantic-Coast Line bridge just before the northbound trains are due in Richmond, and have thought this was an extra precaution taken to see that the bridge track was all right. But it is found that this is not the case, and would not be necessary, as trains are passing over the bridge almost every half-hour. However, it has often been noticed that an engine comes across the bridge a few minutes before the arrival of a train. It is also true of the Chesapeake & Ohio line (under Church Hill) that trains run over this subterranean track every half-hour or so. Where there are no regular watchmen at unimportant crossings, flagmen from the trains are always sent ahead to see that the way is clear, and the gates are closed.

THEIR EMPLOYEES THEIR VICTIMS.

Accidents, then, for these reasons are narrowed down largely to the employees of the road, who have become reckless from intimate association with danger, and at isolated points of the company's lines. The killing or injury of a citizen near the city except from causes for which he is most responsible is a rare thing, indeed.

THOSE STREET GATES.

Many a child has wondered how on earth, where things are not done without a cause, that a watchman can let down the railway-gates on both sides of the street at once while only, apparently closing the gate on the side he is. The fact is, as the older person understands it, this is a feat accomplished only by some very intricate wire-pulling underground, which, like political wirepulling, the common people never see or understand.

The street railways are also equally as cautious to prevent accidents and consequent damages, but the companies in Richmond have made it an inviolable rule that the conductor of each streetcar must run forward across each railroad track his car passes, and that no train is coming. The motorman, though in a good position to see, is not allowed to use his judgment in the matter at all. Even if he can see the track for a half-mile each way, he must not cross till the conductor has first crossed and signalled him to do so. This sometimes looks useless, but it has saved limbs and lives for people, and dollars and cents for the companies.

Come Home To Her.
(London Daily News)

A good story is in circulation at the National Liberal Club. A Progressive candidate sought to persuade a female voter that the Progressive party had done faithful service for the people. The dame was unresponsive. A man burdened with a bag of coals approached the door. "There," said the candidate, pointing to the bag, "you have an evidence of what the Progressives have done for the people. You now know that when you pay for a hundredweight of coals you get a hundredweight." "Yes," snapped out the woman, "my father was in that business, and you people ruined him."

He Must Be Satisfied.
(Chicago News)Man wants but little here below,
Because he's too polite.To interfere when woman strives
For everything in sight.

RELAY BICYCLES.

YOU SEE THE BALLS.

APOLLO, VESPER, HECLA, and other 1898 Wheels from
\$25 to \$75—all guaranteed. See them before you buy.

GOOD TIRES, \$5 per pair.

MORGAN & WRIGHT, HARTFORD & GOODRICH

TIRES always on hand.

Large Sprockets Fitted to Any Old or New Wheels.

High class bicycle Repairing and Enamelling. Prices and terms with in the grasp of all.

B. A. BLENNER,
'Phone 888. - 310 north Fifth street,
BETWEEN BROAD AND MARSHALL STREETS.

(mbt 17-Su,Tu,Fri)

"Welsbach" Patents Sustained.

Judge Townsend, in the United States Circuit Court for the Southern District of New York, has handed down a decision sustaining the "Welsbach" patent, and grants an injunction.

All dealers in infringing lights or mantles are equally liable with the manufacturer, and we warn them against further acts of infringement. All infringers will be proceeded against at once.

The genuine "WELSBACK" gas-light and Mantles can only be gotten from

MORGAN R. MILLS, Sole Agent, No. 28 N. Ninth street
5¢ PHONE (OLD AND NEW) 1110. mh 27-Su,Tu,FriWALL-PAPER.
CHEAP WALL-PAPERING DURING DULL SEASON

Over 100,000 Rolls of Wall-Paper in Stock.

We will be pleased to give estimates for work in city and all parts of country. Samples sent on application. Blanks from 5c. per roll up.

W. C. HUGHES & CO., 200 and 210 North Fifth Street, Richmond, Va.
(a 30-Su,W,F)

INSURANCE STATEMENTS.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF THE STATE OF VIRGINIA.

MANHATTAN INSURANCE COMPANY OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

ANNUAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1897, OF

THE CONDITION AND AFFAIRS OF THE MANHATTAN INSURANCE COMPANY, OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, ORGANIZED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, MADE TO THE AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, IN PURSUANCE TO THE LAWS OF VIRGINIA.

President—P. B. ARMSTRONG.

Vice-President—JOHN J. GIBSONS.

Secretary—H. F. NEEFUS.

Principal Office—47, AND 49 CEDAR STREET, NEW YORK.

Organized or Incorporated—FEBRUARY 1, 1897.

Commenced Business—JUNE 19, 1892.

1—CAPITAL

Amount of capital stock subscribed \$250,000.00

Amount of capital stock paid up in cash 250,000.00

1—ASSETS

ACCOUNT OF BONDS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND OF THIS STATE, AND OF OTHER STATES, AND ALSO OF BONDS OF INCORPORATED CITIES IN THIS STATE, AND OF ALL OTHER BONDS AND STOCKS OWNED ABSOLUTELY BY THE COMPANY.

For Value Market Value

National Park Bank stock \$ 1,500.00 \$ 2,575.00

Mercantile National Bank stock 28,000.00 47,040.00

Importers and Traders' National Bank stock 11,700.00 60,840.00

5,000.00 6,250.00

C. R. J. & P. R. R. bonds, due 1917, 6 per cent. 11,800.00 17,700.00

C. & U. W. R. R. bonds, due 1922, 5 per cent. 25,000.00 33,500.00

Central Midland railroad bonds, due 1921, 4 per cent. 16,000.00 18,660.00

Canada Southern railroad first mortgage bonds, due 1998, 5 per cent. 10,000.00 10,300.00

West Shore railroad mortgage bonds, due 1924, 4 per cent. 12,000.00 12,500.00

C. M. & St. Paul Term. bonds, due 1914, 5 per cent. 6,000.00 6,900.00

New England railroad cons. mortgage bonds, due 1945, 5 per cent. 10,000.00 12,900.00

C. E. & N. Neb. pension bonds, due 1927, 4 per cent. 20,000.00 19,625.00

St. Paul, Minnesota and Manitoba gold bonds, due 1933, 4½ per cent. 20,000.00 21,650.00

Hannibal and St. Jo. cons. mortgages, due 1924, 6 per cent. 1,000.00 1,210.00

C. B. & I. Chicago and Iowa Division bonds, due 1945, 5 per cent. 19,000.00 20,140.00

R. W. & O. R. R. bonds, due 1922, 5 per cent. 20,000.00 24,225.00

Columbus and Ninth avenue first mortgage bonds, due 1993, 5 per cent. 10,000.00 12,100.00

Mohawk and Malone railroad first mortgage bonds, due 1991, 4 per cent. 10,000.00 10,300.00

Illinois Central railroad gold bonds, due 1935, 4 per cent. 20,000.00 20,300.00

C. & O. Rock city of New York dock bonds, due 1922, 3½ per cent. 60,000.00 64,850.00

Fire Association of New York, stock 10,000.00 600.00

Total per and market value (carried out at market value) \$505,000.00 \$60,115.00 \$61,115.00

Cash in company's principal office 26,985.30

Gross premiums (as written in the policies) course collection, not more than three months due 106,843.50

All other property belonging to the company—viz., cash deposited with Guarantees, Trust and Safe-Deposit Company, Philadelphia 200.00

Guaranteed, Trust and Safe-Deposit Company, Philadelphia 100,530.10; sundry bills, 16,697.54

Reinsurance, \$104,530.10; sundry bills, 16,697.54

Total amount of all liabilities, except capital stock and net surplus \$357,329.71

Joint-stock capital actually paid up in cash 250,00.00

Surplus beyond capital and all other liabilities 177,973.39

AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF ALL ASSETS OF THE COMPANY, STATED AT THEIR ACTUAL VALUE \$785,291.19

III—LIABILITIES

Gross claims for adjusted and unpaid losses due and to become due \$15,223.60

Gross losses in process of adjustment, or in suspense, including all reported and supposed losses 67,265.53

Losses resisted, including interest, costs, and other expenses 10,222.42

Total gross amount of claims for losses \$92,711.55

Deduct reinsurance thereof 9,379.74

Net amount of unpaid losses \$3,331.81

Interest due and declared, remaining unpaid or uncalled for 698.73

Outstanding interest-bearing receipts 11,031.73

Due and to become due for borrowed money 109,000.00

All other demands against the company, absolute and contingent, and to become due, admitted and contested—viz., State, city, county, or other taxes and assessment, \$5,569.28; commissions, brokerage, and other charges due and to become due to agents and brokers, on premiums paid and in course of collection, \$35,614.50

Interest and dividends on stocks and bonds, collateral loans, and for all other sources 22,978.00

Income received from all other sources—viz., profit in sale of bonds \$93,343.13

Excess payment Broadway Insurance Company 54.67

For increased capital 25,00.00

AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF RECEIPTS ACTUALLY RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR IN CASH \$524,294.35

V.—DISBURSEMENTS DURING THE YEAR.

Fire.

Gross amount actually paid for losses (including \$74,397.42, losses occurring in previous years) \$405,381.55

Decut all amounts actually received for salvage (whether on losses of the last or of previous years), \$3,529.10, and all amounts actually received for reinsurance in other companies, \$37,152.48. Total deduction 22,681.58

Net amount paid during the year for losses \$32,699.97

Cash dividends actually paid stockholders (amount of stockholders' dividends declared during the year) 23,423.07

Script of stockholders \$6,761.51. Total 5,519.21

Paid for commission or brokerage 10,671.75

Paid for salaries, fees, and all other charges of officers, clerks, agents, and all other employees 57,617.54

Paid for State and local taxes, and other taxes 65,982.11

All other payments 8,333.39

Losses on bonds and on ledger assets 1,353.39

AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF ACTUAL DISBURSEMENTS DURING THE YEAR IN CASH \$372,579.63

BUSINESS IN THE STATE OF VIRGINIA DURING THE YEAR.

Fire Risks.

Premiums received (gross) \$35